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## Magazines equip students with tools for college, graduation, and life in Indiana

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education, and IBJ Corp., along with Indiana Secondary Market for Education Loans, Inc. (ISM), and USA Funds, have developed two publications, called *NEXT* and *GRAD*, encouraging students to use Indiana's higher education system and, after graduation, to stay in Indiana to live and work.

"We know that students are looking for information about their futures," said Stan Jones, Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education. "These publications encourage our young people to find out what is out there and give them the tools to shape their opportunities."

*NEXT*, first published in 2000, provides Indiana high school students (Grades 11 and 12) with comprehensive information about the many college, university, training and career opportunities available in the state. *GRAD* magazine joined *NEXT* in 2001 as a way to connect college students with postgraduate and employment opportunities in the state.

"ISM's top priority is helping Hoosiers access higher education, and we are pleased to offer support for *NEXT* and *GRAD* as a means for helping more Indiana students pursue education beyond high school and take advantage of the many opportunities this state has to offer," said Stephen W. Clinton, ISM President.

NEXT and GRAD give practical help in a user-friendly format. Students interested in higher education can look through NEXT to find information on financial aid, picking the right college and tips on filling out college applications. GRAD gives solid advice to college juniors and seniors about finding the right job, writing resumes and cover letters, and financial guidelines for managing budgets and student loans.

"USA Funds is committed to helping students lay the foundation for the future through higher education, "said Carl C. Dalstrom, USA Funds President and CEO. "We know that *NEXT* and *GRAD* are valuable tools that give students the information they need to achieve success in higher education."

NEXT and GRAD are part of a trio of publications, along with PREP, to help students, from middle school to college, make informed decisions for their future. PREP magazine assists eighth grade students in making choices for rigorous Core 40 and Academic Honors courses in high school and planning for future college and career opportunities.

"Collectively, *PREP*, *NEXT* and *GRAD* reach students during key transitional periods in their educational careers and provide them with the information they need to reach informed decisions," said Pat Keiffner, Publisher of *PREP*, *NEXT* and *GRAD*.

To view on online version of *NEXT*, please visit indnext.com; for *GRAD* please see www.gradind.com.